LAKE BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPRING 2026

off the SHELF

The Comfort of Crows

Read Between the Ravines

Two Communities, One Nonfiction Book

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STAYING CONNECTED

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been nearly a year since I joined the Lake Bluff Public Library, and I want to thank you all for the warm welcome, generosity, and support you've shown as we've worked together to stabilize the Library's building, services, and finances. Over the past year, we've begun updating critical infrastructure, including installing new sprinkler heads and fully testing the fire system; completing a comprehensive facility assessment to guide future improvements; and nearing completion of a five-year strategic plan. We've also restored notary and test-taking services, started a Little Pantry, and more!

Throughout all of this, our Library staff have done incredible work—creating engaging displays, reorganizing the upper and main floors, adding the LEGO wall, and continuing to expand programs and services for our community.

However, even as we work hard to ensure the Lake Bluff Public Library meets the needs of our community, we invite you to stay connected with the Library, advocate for the importance of abating asbestos to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone, support our Friends group, and most importantly, come in and see us!

Natalie Starosta, Library Director

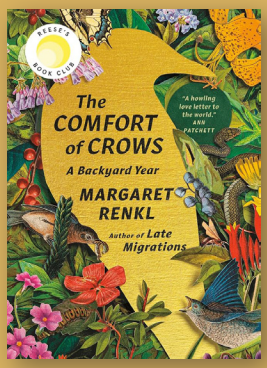
READ BETWEEN THE RAVINES

TWO COMMUNITIES, ONE NONFICTION BOOK

Lake Bluff and Lake Forest Libraries proudly present the annual Read Between the Ravines! This "Two Communities, One Nonfiction Book" program fosters nonfiction literacy and meaningful discussions. The 2026 selection is *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year* by Margaret Renkl. Learn more at **LakeBluffLibrary.org/RBR**.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Margaret Renkl is the author of *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year*, winner of the 2024 Southern Book Prize and Reese's Book Club's 100th pick. Her earlier books include *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss* and *Graceland, At Last: Notes on Hope and Heartache From the American South*, both award-winning works of nature and essay writing. A contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*, Renkl lives in Nashville.



ABOUT THE BOOK

In *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year*, Renkl follows the creatures and plants in her backyard during the course of a year. As we move through the seasons—from a crow spied on New Year's Day, its resourcefulness and sense of community setting a theme for the year—what develops is a portrait of joy and grief. Joy at the ongoing pleasures of the natural world: "Until the very last cricket falls silent, the beauty-besotted will always find a reason to love the world." And grief at a shifting climate, at winters that end too soon, at songbirds growing fewer and fewer.

An Evening with Margaret Renkl

4/24 at 7pm | Registration Required

Located at the History Center of Lake Forest - Lake Bluff

Join the Lake Bluff and Lake Forest Libraries for an evening with New York Times bestselling author Margaret Renkl (*The Comfort of Crows*) in conversation with Laura Calvert, Executive Director of the Elawa Farm Foundation. Refreshments are available starting at 6:30pm, and the event will conclude with a book signing.

Seed Library – LBPL
All Ages | While Supplies Last
The Seed Library is back and freshly stocked with a vibrant mix of seeds, thanks to a generous donation from the Davey Tree Expert Company. Come browse the collection in-person or visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/SeedLibrary** to learn more!

DIY Kit: Bee Hotel – LFL R
4/1 – 4/30
While Supplies Last
Bee Hotel: It's like a birdhouse, but for bees! Support your local pollinators with a place to rest. Limit 2 kits per household.

Landscaping for a Changing Climate – LFL R
4/2 at 7pm
Join Lake County Forest Preserves and learn about what we plant and how we plant it can make a difference. Discover nature-based solutions for the home gardener that lessen the impacts of our changing climate.

The Book Stops Here at Dickinson Hall – LFL R
at Dickinson Hall
100 E Old Mill Rd, LF
4/7 at 11am
This session, join us in reading this year's Read Between the Ravines book, *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl. For more information and to register, please call Dickinson Hall at 847-234-2209.

Book Discussion at Elawa Farm Foundation – LBPL R
at Elawa Farm (Hay Barn)
1401 Middlefork Dr., LF
4/11 at 1pm
This session, join us in reading this year's Read Between the Ravines book, *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl.

Owls of Lake County – LBPL R V
4/13 at 6pm
Throughout the year, seven species of owl live in or migrate through Lake County. Join staff from Lake County Forest Preserves on Zoom to learn about the natural history of each species and their unique adaptations.

Afternoons with Judy Levin – LFL R
4/16 from 12pm – 1:15pm
This session, join us in reading this year's Read Between the Ravines book, *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl.

Bird Walk with Lake Forest Open Lands – LFL R
at Greene Nature Preserve
797-793 Sheridan Rd., LF
4/20 from 8am – 9:30am
Join Lake Forest Open Lands and Lake Forest Library off site at the Greene Nature Preserve for a bird hike led by a guide from the Lake County Audubon Society. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear!

Afternoon Book Club – LBPL
4/21 at 2:30pm
This session, join us in reading this year's Read Between the Ravines book, *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl.

Guided Nature Meditation with Margaret Renkl – LFL R
4/25 at 10am
Join the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff libraries in person at Lake Forest Library for a guided nature meditation and reflective writing workshop with Margaret Renkl. After quiet reflection, in which participants are invited to bring back the natural world and sensory details of their childhood, Margaret will lead a writing exercise that corresponds to Spring Week 6 in *The Comfort of Crows*. Book signing to follow.

LBPL – Hosted by Lake Bluff Library | LFL – Hosted by Lake Forest Library
Register through LakeBluffLibrary.org/RBR
Programs are intended for adults unless otherwise noted.

R = Registration Required **V** = Virtual
All programs are in person at the Library unless otherwise stated.

Spotlight Resource:

Resources for Seniors

Stop by between 10am and 12pm every second Monday of the month to visit with a representative from the Patricia A. Jones Center in Waukegan. Come learn about local resources, services, and programs for seniors in Lake County.

Mahjong Meetup
2/24, 3/24, 4/28, and 5/26 from 2:30pm – 4:30pm
Attend this casual Mahjong group to play with other community members! Bring your own Mahjong set if you have one.

Book Battles
3/2 – 3/31
Participate in this literary competition where we pit title against title and you decide which will advance to the next round! Vote for the best books of last year at the Library's First Floor Service Desk or on social media and help crown the 2025 Lake Bluff Champion Read.

Spring Desserts R
3/5 at 6pm
Springtime is almost here and it's the perfect season for some delicious desserts. Chef Susan Maddox will be demonstrating a few of her favorite spring sweet treats. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Public Library.*

The Mob's Influence on Popular Culture R
3/12 at 6pm
How did we get here, why is this important, and why are we still talking about it? From Capone's arrival more than a century ago to the souvenir shops on Michigan Avenue, this final installment of Murder and Mayhem: The Mob Series will explore how the Chicago Mob is deeply rooted in our culture to this day.

Afternoon Book Club
3/17, 4/21, and 5/19 at 2:30pm
Join Carol at the Library for an insightful monthly book discussion series:

March - *Heaven's Keep* by William Kent Krueger

April - *A Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl

May - *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

Floral Workshop with Lake Forest Flowers R
3/21 at 10:30am
Participants will learn how to elevate a grocery store or farmer's market bouquet into a beautiful, personalized floral display.

Evening Book Club
4/2 and 5/28 at 6pm
Every two months we'll explore a book from a different genre:

April - *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel, Sci-Fi

May - *Under the Whispering Door* by TJ Klune, Fantasy

Owls of Lake County R V
4/13 at 6pm
Throughout the year, seven species of owl live in or migrate through Lake County. Join staff from Lake County Forest Preserves on Zoom to learn about the natural history of each species and their unique adaptations.

Lost Treasures of the Titanic
4/13 at 7pm R V
James Cameron's *Titanic* told the fictional story of the Heart of the Ocean, a blue diamond necklace lost in the ship's sinking. But what about the real treasures that went down with the Titanic? Tragedy struck on April 14, 1912, leading to a tragic loss of life and countless valuables that ultimately plummeted into the ocean, never to be seen again. This lecture explores some of the most fascinating and historically significant treasures lost that night.

How to Navigate ADHD
5/7 at 6pm
Staff members from Courage to Connect Therapy will present on how to navigate ADHD as an adult and staying connected in an increasingly virtual world.

Apple Photos R
5/12 at 11am
Learn how to organize and share photos on your Apple device to help you find them when you need them.

Diamond Art Painting R
5/21 at 6pm
Get your sparkle on! Whether you're new to diamond painting or already have tiny gems all over your home, this meditative craft session will leave you feeling refreshed and inspired.

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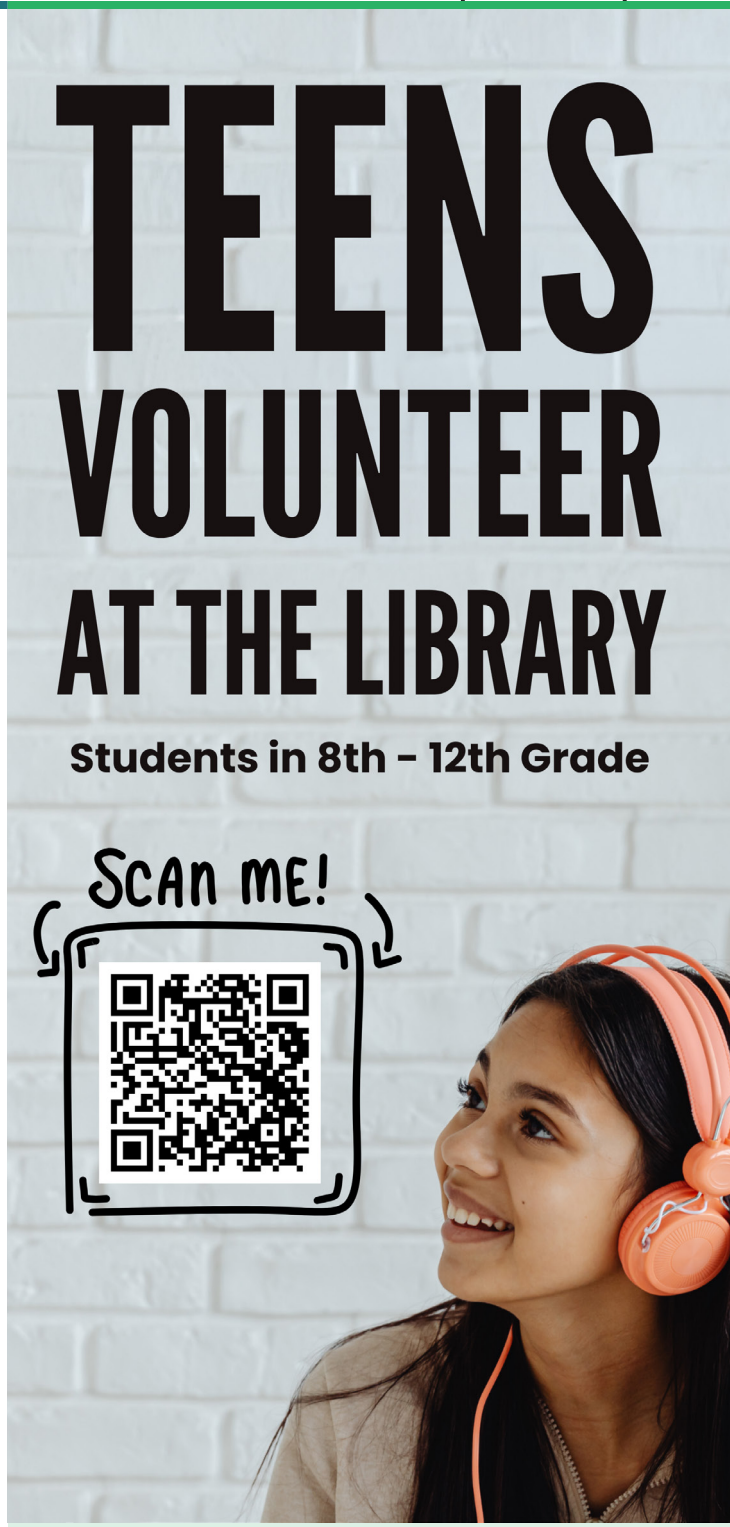
Illinois Libraries Present: A Virtual Program Series

Beyond the Page with Percival Everett R V
3/19 at 7pm
Industrious, irreverent, and humble–though he may deny the accusation–Percival Everett defies categorization. His most recent novel, *James*, earned both the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Award, and his 2001 novel *Erasure* inspired the film *American Fiction*, which received the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 2024.

Cristina Henríquez: Voice, Culture, and Human Connection R V
4/16 at 7pm
Join critically acclaimed bestselling author Cristina Henríquez for a compelling conversation about her work. Henríquez's newest book, *The Great Divide*, is a moving exploration of the people who lived, loved, and labored during the construction of the Panama Canal. The book was named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice selection and a *TIME Magazine* "100 Must-Read Books of 2024."

Babel-On with R.F. Kuang R V
5/19 at 7pm
R.F. Kuang's genre-bending fiction broaches serious topics from a satirical and fantastical perspective. Academic yet approachable, Kuang's work combines history, magic, and classical literary tradition to render powerful critiques of academia, the publishing industry, and even contemporary popular culture.

***These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*



Tween Crafts: Diamond Art Painting
3/31 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 14
Get your sparkle on! Whether you're new to diamond painting or already have tiny gems all over your home, this meditative craft session will leave you feeling refreshed and inspired.

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1,000 books before kindergarten

Ongoing | Ages 0 – 6
Support your child's early literacy and track their progress with our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. For more information about how to register, visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/1000Books**.

Grab and Go Crafts
Fridays
While Supplies Last
Pop into the Library and grab a craft to go! Every week a new craft will be available.

LEGO Drop-In
3/4, 4/1, and 5/6
from 3pm – 5pm
Ages 6 – 11
Drop into the Youth Services Department and play with LEGO bricks!

Messy Crafts
4/4 at 11am
Ages 2 – 12
Bring your kid in for some messy fun at the Library, and we'll handle the clean up! Smaller children will need the help of an adult.

Baby and Me
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, and 4/14 at 10:30am
Ages 0 – 2 with an adult
Join us with your littlest ones for a relaxed program featuring a short story, age-appropriate toys, and music. While the children play and socialize, adults can connect and chat.

Beginning Reader Storytime
3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, and 4/15 at 4:15pm
Ages 4 – 7 with an adult
In this fun family program, we'll work on developing the early literacy skills kids need to become confident readers and book enthusiasts through stories, games, art, music, and more.

Mini Movers
3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16 at 10:30am
Ages 2+ with an adult
Shake your sillies out in this fast-paced, music-filled storytime. We'll explore dramatic movement, musical instruments, and playful language through rhythm and rhyme in this engaging program for active toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.

Pokémon Club
3/12, 4/9, 5/14 at 4pm
Ages 8+
Calling all Pokémon Trainers! Prepare for epic battles with the Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG), take on exciting challenges, and power up your skills at the Library!

K9 Reading Buddies R
3/16 and 4/20 at 4pm
Ages 6 – 11
Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute session and read to a trained therapy dog. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Chess Club R
3/17 and 4/21 at 5pm
Ages 6 – 12
Whether you are new to chess, or seeking to hone your techniques, Mark Hamilton will provide chess guidance to help improve your game.

Cardboard Construction
3/25 from 11am – 2pm
Ages 6+ with an adult
What will you build today? A towering castle, a rocket ship blasting into space, or a playground for your cat? The only limit is your imagination! Grab boxes and all the kid-safe supplies you need to cut, fold, and create your masterpiece. Want to go even bigger? BYOB – Bring Your Own Box!

New Parent Meet Up

3/9 at 12pm – 1:30pm and 5/2 at 10:30am - 12pm
New Parents and their babies (6 months or younger)
Becoming a parent can be amazing, but also hard! Connect with other new parents in the area while your babies enjoy age-appropriate socialization and play during this drop-in program. Older siblings are permitted.

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Tween Crafts: Diamond Art Painting
3/31 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 14
Get your sparkle on! Whether you're new to diamond painting or already have tiny gems all over your home, this meditative craft session will leave you feeling refreshed and inspired.

Super Silly Egg Hunt
4/1 – 4/30 | Ages 3+
There are surprise-filled eggs hidden all around Youth Services! Find an egg, open it up, and see what magic unfolds!

Family Storytime
4/11 at 10:30am
Ages 2+ with an adult
Join us for an inclusive and interactive storytime featuring play, songs and lots of fun!

KPop Demon Hunter Training R
4/30 from 6pm – 7:30pm
Ages 8 – 12
Calling all demon hunters – we need your help to seal the Honmoon! Learn to dance along to "Golden" and go up, up, up with your voice during karaoke.

Charlotte's Web Play R
4/25 at 1pm
Ages 4+ with an adult
Three Brothers Theatre presents Charlotte's Web, the classic literary tale of true friendship, brought to life in a special one-hour production for the whole family!

Hold a Fossil: T-Rexplorers R
5/16 at 2pm | Ages 5 – 12
Step into the world of dinosaurs with Dino Seeds Experience! Get up close with real fossils, discover what life was like on a paleontological dig, and uncover how plants shaped the prehistoric world. Arrive 15 minutes early to meet Ranger the T-Rex! *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Baby Prom!

5/9 from 12pm – 1:30pm
Ages 0 – 3 with an adult
Oh, Baby! It's Prom season! Join us for an afternoon of celebration, dancing, photo ops and more. Fancy attire is welcome but not required!

Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

CONTACT US

PHONE: 847-234-2540
WEBSITE: LakeBluffLibrary.org
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & YOUTUBE:
@LakeBluffPublicLibrary

ADMINISTRATION

Natalie Starosta, *Library Director*
nstarosta@lakeblufflibrary.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alexandra Friedeman, *President*
Sandy Jardine, *Vice President*
Bonnie Shaul, *Treasurer*
Courtney Heck, *Secretary*
Joseph Kearney
Kathleen Reidy
Brian Sobolak

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held in person at the Library in the Spruth Room and streamed live on Zoom.

Monday, 3/16 at 7pm
Tuesday, 4/21 at 7pm
Tuesday, 5/19 at 7pm

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support the Library.

UPCOMING FRIENDS MEETINGS

Saturday, 4/18 at 11am

STATEMENT ON PROGRAMMING

All Library programs are free of charge and open to everyone. You do not need a Library card to attend a program. Library programs are presented to offer differing viewpoints, and are not intended as endorsement by the Library of views expressed by, or actions suggested by, individual speakers or groups.

PHOTO USE POLICY

The Lake Bluff Public Library reserves the right to use photos and/or audio/video recordings taken at the Library or at a Library-sponsored event for publicity purposes. Please see our Photo Use policy for more information.

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SCAN ME